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The following material on present activities of significant persons in the Austrian Communist Party (CP) adds numerous details to information already known, and is believed to be of value because it is based upon the altered situation brought about by widespread changes in Party leadership in August and September 1948.

1. Central Committee

Berg, Dr. Ludwig

Berg holds two jobs; for three days a week he is an interpreter and consultant at the Soviet headquarters in Vienna II, and for three days a week he works in the Education and Youth Problem Section of the Central Committee. Formerly, Berg was Central Committee delegate for Kinderland (Communist association for children). He has numerous acquaintances in foreign countries with whom he remains in touch, exploiting these contacts for the benefit of the Party.

Comment: In [REDACTED], Berg was reported to be an editor for Globus Verlag.) 25X

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Dubovsky, Robert

Dubovsky is a member of the Lower Austrian Landtag. He works in the Public Welfare Section of the Central Committee. Despite his diligent work he is not considered to be important politically.

Genner, Laurenz

Provincial head (Landesobmann) of the CP for Lower Austria. Genner works in the Propaganda Section, as well as in the Economic Problems and Information Sections of the Central Committee. In matters of Communist election propaganda, his voice is considered as authoritative as that of Fuernberg. Genner is a member of the Lower Austrian Landtag. **Comment:** See [redacted] current at end of report.)

See [REDACTED] comment at end of report.)

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Krahl, Josef

CP head for Vienna IV. Krahl has frequent dealings with the Soviet authorities, notably, with Lt. Col. Yakin of the Soviet headquarters in Vienna IV, and with the Soviet headquarters in Vienna X. Krahl is a tailor; his residence and tailor shop are in Vienna IV, Favoritenstrasse 54. Although Krahl has excellent connections with high CP officials, is aggressive and considered a dangerous enemy, he is little known outside of the inner circles of the Party.

Kurz, Dr. Olga

Kurz works in the Public Health Section of the Central Committee.

Marek, Franz

Marek has been in charge of the Information Section of the CP since about 1 September 1948. In this capacity he works closely with Ernst Fischer, Friedl Fuernberg, and Schaller (mentioned below). Before taking this assignment, Marek was working on "CP economic planning" with Karl Altmann, and was doing most of the work. Marek is mentioned less frequently than many other CP functionaries, but he is thought to have considerable ability and knowledge.

Nuernberger, Georg

Nuernberger is an analyst in charge of files maintained by the CP on functionaries of the coalition parties. He was appointed to his present job because of his connections with both the Socialists and the Austrian People's Party and because of the background political information which he can contribute.

Prohaska

Prohaska is in charge of membership files of CP members and also handles Werkschuta matters for the Central Committee. He draws up party statistics on membership and personnel changes. Prohaska enjoys the complete trust of the CP leaders, and is therefore often called upon to take notes at secret executive meetings and conferences.

Roth, Dr. Anton

Roth works in the Public Health Section of the CP. He also works on health problems in the Trade Union Association (Gewerkschaftsbund), posing as a Socialist.

Schaller

An enthusiastic Moscow-trained Communist, active in the Propaganda Office, Schaller also figures in a CP intelligence office called the Politisches Abwehrbuero; the Abwehrbuero was formerly known as the Control Commission (Ueberpruefungskommission). This organization investigates candidates for party jobs as well as party members who attract attention by their attempts to ascend to positions of influence. The approval of this office is a prerequisite for attending party training courses. In recent months, the Abwehrbuero has shifted its attention to the various scandals within the Party itself, acting as a sort of district attorney's office.

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Comment: [redacted] all of the above-named Communists as members of the Central Committee. Most of them have appeared in previous reports as active Communist Party members, but with the exception of Genner and Marek, we have no confirmation that they are members of the Central Committee. Krahl and Schaller have not previously been mentioned in our reports. It has been reported by other [redacted], in [redacted] that changes have recently been made in the Central Committee organization, and it is possible that new members have been admitted.)

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2. CP Liaison Officers

In order to maintain contact between district headquarters and deliver confidential party communications, the Central Committee makes use of a number of carefully investigated liaison officers and couriers. Following is a list of all known persons falling in this category.

Friedrich, Ernst

Vienna XX, District CP office.

Klein

Krutky

Werkschutz official.

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Langbein, Otto

Well-known Volksstimme editor

Comment: In view of Langbein's relative importance in the Party, it is improbable that he is used solely for courier functions.)

Lederer, Alice

Vienna XX, District CP Office.

Mathecek

Vienna II, District CP Office; liaison with Kinderland.

Marshall

Vienna V, District CP Office.

Ryschaek

Vienna V, District CP Office.

Schweizer (female)

Represents CP in the Society for the Cultivation of Cultural and Economic Relations with the Soviet Union (Palais Coburg).

Teichert, Hanna

Vienna X, District CP Office.

Wammser, Franz

Vienna XXIV and XXV, District CP Offices.

Comment: It has been reported that Genner, mentioned in paragraph 1 above, has been replaced as chief of the CP directorate for Lower Austria by Fritz Ponzenboeck. The report added that the change does not indicate that Genner has fallen from favor; in fact, he might become chief of a section in the Central Committee.)

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